

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 12, 2002 LB 460, 1212

adoption of the amendment to the committee amendment. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Beutler's amendment to the committee amendments.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Senator Tyson would move to amend the committee amendments. (AM3011, Legislative Journal page 863.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Tyson, you're recognized to open on the amendment to the committee amendment.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. This amendment was heard by the Education Committee as LB 1212, and it passed out of that committee to General File with no negative votes. The bill would allow Class III schools to protect their resources in a cooperative manner with Class I schools who want to dissolve or merge or reorganize. Current law allows Class I schools to reorganize without a vote of the affected Class II or III if they have less than 50 percent of the district's valuation. Essentially, this bill lowers that to 8 percent. There are...I brought this bill because of a single instance which is in Madison County. However, it is not a local problem in Madison County. There are 43 counties who would be affected by this legislation; 46 percent of the counties in the state. There are 114 Class Is or IIs of the total number that are affiliated with more than one high school, and this legislation could also affect 128 Class II through V schools, and there could be possibly 179 similar instances. The reason that this bill was brought in my particular district, we have a very small Class I there called Kalamazoo; it's District 97. It is going out of existence. Everybody who is currently affiliated with that wants to go to Humphrey. Humphrey School has the lowest levy in the state, 49.03. Even with bond, that's only up to 54. Madison, which has a substantial stake in this, is 99.99; Battle Creek similar, and Newman Grove also is affected. This affects those people who would like to leave for greener pastures, as it will, and the result would be that any